

THE COINS FROM KHIRBAT BURNAT (SOUTHWEST)

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Forty-seven coins were discovered in the excavations undertaken in the southern part of Site 8A and in several installations at Khirbat Burnat (Southwest); three were unidentifiable.¹ With the exception of one coin found near Cistern 134 (No. 42) and two coins of unknown surface provenance (Nos. 10, 44), the coins were found within the large dwelling complex (Table 1; see Torge, this volume: Plan 1). While the assemblage includes a few Late Roman, Byzantine and Mamluk coins (Nos. 40–44), most of the coins date from the Seleucid period through the Early Roman period. These suggest continuous settlement in the dwelling complex and confirm its dating according to the ceramic finds dated from the end of the second century BCE to the second century CE. While the ceramic and glass finds (see Winter, this volume) include some objects that date between the Jewish War and the Bar Kokhba Revolt, no coins from this period were found; this absence, however, does not necessarily indicate a settlement gap.

The earliest Seleucid-period coins date from the time of Antiochus III (No. 1), Antiochus IV (No. 2) and Demetrius I (Nos. 3, 4). A Seleucid silver *tetradrachma* was also discovered (No. 7), but its poor state of preservation did not allow further identification. The Hasmonaean *pruṭot* of John Hyrcanus I (Nos. 8–10), and particularly those of Alexander Jannaeus (Nos. 11–19), appear in considerable numbers, a phenomenon that has been observed at other sites dating to the Second Temple period as well.²

The transition from the first century BCE to the first century CE (Hasmonaean to Early Roman) is well represented by a

coin of Mattathias Antigonus of the 'single cornucopia' type (No. 25) and a *pruṭah* of Herod I from the Jerusalem mint (No. 26). Coins of Mattathias Antigonus are generally found east of Jerusalem, in the Judean Desert (Ariel 1998:132–133). However, several specimens have been uncovered in excavations in the vicinity of Khirbat Burnat (Southwest): two coins at Khirbat Badd 'Isa (Bijovsky 2004: Nos. A29, A30); one coin at Shoham (IAA 66599; unpublished); and two coins at Kh. el-'Aqd (Kindler 1986–1987:49–50, Nos. 15, 16).

Most interesting in this assemblage is a coin of the Seleucid king Demetrius III minted in Damascus, dated to 96–87 BCE (No. 24). Coins of this ruler are rarely discovered in Israel. Only thirteen other coins of this type are registered in the IAA coin collection. Most of them are from the Golan and the Upper Galilee, indicating their rather restricted area of circulation: seven from Gamala (Syon 1992–1993:41); three from Tel Anafa (Meshorer 1994:248, Nos. 114–116); one from 'Akko (IAA 91780; unpublished); and another from Bet She'an (IAA 75995; unpublished). The closest site where such a coin has been found is Horbat Hanut (IAA 77533; unpublished).

The numismatic finds from the first century CE until 70 CE are quite conventional. They include *pruṭot* of Agrippa I (Nos. 30, 31) and coins of the Roman procurators in Judea (Nos. 27–29, 32, 33), minted in Jerusalem (Kushnir-Stein 2000–2002:80–81). The final years of the Second Temple and its destruction are well attested by three *pruṭot* from the second year of the Jewish War (67 CE; Nos. 34–36) and a local *Judea Capta* coin of Titus, which commemorates the Roman triumph (No. 37).

Table 1. Coin Distribution from the Dwelling Complex according to Building and Locus

| Building/Courtyard | Locus | Basket | Cat. No. | Description |
|------------------------------|-------|--------|----------|---------------------------|
| Surface, above Building A | 883 | 8283 | 13 | Alexander Jannaeus |
| | 904 | 8444 | 35 | Jewish War |
| | | 8310 | 36 | Jewish War |
| Building A | 917 | 8596 | 3 | Demetrius I |
| | 947 | 8797 | 1 | Antiochus III |
| | | 8798 | 5 | Seleucid uncertain |
| | 948 | 8793 | 6 | Seleucid uncertain |
| | | 8791 | 9 | John Hyrcanus I |
| Surface, west of Building A2 | 953 | 8796 | 20 | Hasmonaean |
| Courtyard AA | 944 | 8792 | 2 | Antiochus IV |
| | 949 | 8794 | 4 | Demetrius I |
| | | 8795 | 23 | Hasmonaean |
| Courtyard BB | 921 | 8528 | 29 | Pontius Pilatus |
| Building B | 858 | 8787 | 18 | Alexander Jannaeus |
| | 882 | 8188 | 14 | Alexander Jannaeus |
| | | 8789 | 15 | Alexander Jannaeus |
| | 888 | 8788 | 27 | Roman Procurators 6–12 CE |
| Surface, above Building B2 | 850 | 8323 | 28 | Valerius Gratus |
| | 868 | 8146 | 16 | Alexander Jannaeus |
| Building C | 861 | 8135 | 12 | Alexander Jannaeus |
| | 903 | 8329 | 19 | Alexander Jannaeus |
| Surface, above Building D | 936 | 8573 | 22 | Hasmonaean |
| Building D | 896 | 8786 | 34 | Jewish War |
| | | 8449 | 40 | Diocletian |
| Building E | 869 | 8186 | 8 | John Hyrcanus I |
| | | 8213 | 41 | Constantine I |
| | 874 | 8156 | 21 | Hasmonaean |
| | | 8185 | 25 | Mattathias Antigonus |
| | 934 | 8564 | 31 | Agrippa I |
| | 1016 | 8865 | 24 | Demetrius III |
| | | 8870 | 33 | Festus |
| | | 8863 | 37 | <i>Judea Capta</i> Titus |
| | | 8896 | 38 | Bar Kokhba Revolt |
| W19, south of Building G | 1031 | 8915 | 7 | Seleucid tetradrachma |
| Surface, above Courtyard GG | 977 | 8783 | 39 | Hadrian |
| Building H | 1008 | 8799 | 17 | Alexander Jannaeus |
| | | 8800 | 26 | Herod I(?) |
| | | 8801 | 30 | Agrippa I |
| | | 8802 | 32 | Festus |
| Surface, above Building H | 1010 | 8617 | 11 | Alexander Jannaeus |
| Surface, north of Building H | 1014 | 8653 | 43 | 383–395 CE |

Two coins date to the Bar Kokhba revolt: a coin of Hadrian minted in Caesarea (117–138 CE; No. 39), and a medium bronze of the second year of the revolt (133/134 CE; No. 38). Another coin of Bar Kokhba, of the same type and date, was unearthed during the 2000

excavation season in the northern part of Site 8A (IAA 88594; Onn and Torge, in prep.).³ The Bar Kokhba coins from the site might suggest that it was abandoned before the end of the revolt, in 134/135 CE. Bar Kokhba coins are not uncommon in the foothills of the Land of

Benjamin. Isolated finds and hoards consisting of Bar Kokhba coins have been found in nearby sites, such as Shoham, Horbat Tittora and Khirbat Badd 'Isa, indicating that these sites were under the rebels' control during the Bar Kokhba revolt (Bijovsky 2004:248–251).

The numismatic evidence from Khirbat Burnat (Southwest) shows a clear predominance of Jewish coins struck in Jerusalem. This

reinforces other evidence from the site, i.e., a *miqveh* and stone vessels (see Torge, this volume), indicating that its population was Jewish. It also suggests a strong monetary dependence on Jerusalem.

The latest coins from the site date to the Late Roman, Byzantine and Mamluk periods (Nos. 40–44), suggesting random human activity, possibly agricultural, during these periods.



Fig. 1.

CATALOGUEⁱ

| Cat. No. | Basket | Locus | Weight (g) | Diam. (mm) | Axis | Obverse | Reverse | Date (CE) | Mint | References and Notes | IAA No. |
|--|--------|-------|------------|------------|-------------|--|--|---------------------------|-----------------|--|---------|
| SELEUCIDS | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Antiochus III (223–187 BCE) | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1 | 8797 | 947 | 1.82 | 10 | Obliterated | [ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΣ ΑΝΤΙΟΧΟΥ] Apollo sig. I., holding bow and arrow | | | Antioch | SNG <i>Israel</i> 1:86, Nos. 573–591 | 87396 |
| Antiochus IV (175–164 BCE) | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 2* | 8792 | 944 | 2.65 | 15 | ↑ | Head r., radiate | ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΣ ΑΝΤΙΟΧΟΥ Female figure sig. facing, holding long scepter | | 'Akko-Ptolemais | SNG <i>Israel</i> 1:156, Nos. 1130–1138; serrated | 87395 |
| Demetrius I (162–150 BCE) | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 3 | 8596 | 917 | 2.55 | 14 | ↓ | Head of Artemis r., on shoulder bow and arrow | ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΣ ΔΗΜΗΤΡΙΟΥ Apollo sig. facing nude, holding bow and arrow | | Antioch(?) | SNG <i>Israel</i> 1:180, Nos. 1305–1306; serrated | 87391 |
| 4* | 8794 | 949 | 1.95 | 13 | ↑ | Head r., diademed | ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΣ ΔΗΜΗΤΡΙΟΥ Palm tree, flanked by date: Ξ – Ρ | Year 160 = 153/152 BCE | Tyre | SNG <i>Israel</i> 1:186, No. 1337 | 87401 |
| Uncertain | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 5 | 8798 | 947 | 1.67 | 12 | ↑ | Head r., diademed | [...] Palm tree; date illegible | | Tyre | | 87397 |
| 6 | 8793 | 948 | 2.05 | 13 | | Same | Obliterated | | Serrated | | 87399 |
| Silver Tetradrachma | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 7 | 8915 | 1031 | 12.80 | 26×28 | ↑ | Head r., diademed | ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΣ Eagle sig. I., in I. field club surmounted by ψ | | Tyre | | 87414 |
| HASMONAEANS | | | | | | | | | | | |
| John Hyrcanus I (129–104 BCE) — <i>Priyah</i> | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 8 | 8186 | 869 | 1.73 | 13×15 | | Paleo-Hebrew inscription within wreath: לְהַזָּרְעָה הַמְּגֻדָּלָה [לְהַזָּרְעָה] | Double cornucopia, between horns, a pomegranate | | Jerusalem | <i>TJC</i> 2001:204, Group E; reverse out off flan | 87378 |

ⁱ All the coins are bronze unless otherwise stated. The coins are arranged chronologically, according to coin types. Coins bearing an asterisk are illustrated in Fig. 1.

CATALOGUE (cont.)

| Cat. No. | Basket | Locus | Weight (g) | Diam. (mm) | Axis | Obverse | Reverse | Date (CE) | Mint | References and Notes | IAA No. |
|---|--------|-------|------------|------------|------|--|--|-------------------------|-----------|-----------------------|---------|
| 9* | 8791 | 948 | 2.42 | 15 | ↑ | Same לְבָרֶךְ יְהוָה מִדָּחָה | Same | | Same | TJC 2001.202, Group B | 87398 |
| 10 | 8050 | Sur. | 2.35 | 13 | ↑ | Same תְּהִרְאֵל | Same | | Same | | 87372 |
| <i>Alexander Jannaeus (103–76 BCE) — Prutah</i> | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 11 | 8617 | 1010 | 2.06 | 15 | | [ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΣ ΑΝΔΡΟΥ] Anchor | Star within diadem | 103–80 BCE | Jerusalem | TJC 2001.209, Group K | 87408 |
| 12 | 8135 | 861 | 2.00 | 16 | | [ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΣ ΑΝΔΡΟΥ] Same | Same | | Same | | 87376 |
| 13 | 8283 | 883 | 0.78 | 13 | | [ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΣ ΑΝΔΡΟΥ] Same | Same | | Same | | 87384 |
| 14 | 8188 | 882 | 1.68 | 13 | | [ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΣ Α] ΑΝΔΡΟΥ] Same | Same | | Same | | 87382 |
| 15 | 8789 | 882 | 1.04 | 12 | | Anchor within circle | Star | 80/79 BCE and onward | Same | TJC 2001.210, Group L | 87383 |
| 16 | 8146 | 868 | 0.94 | 11×13 | | Obliterated | Same | | Same | | 87377 |
| 17 | 8799 | 1008 | 1.22 | 10×15 | | Anchor within circle | Same | | Same | | 87404 |
| 18 | 8787 | 858 | 0.93 | 11×13 | | Obliterated | Same | | Same | | 87375 |
| 19* | 8329 | 903 | 1.36 | 13 | ↓ | Paleo-Hebrew inscription within wreath: לְבָרֶךְ יְהוָה מִדָּחָה | Double cornucopia, between horns, a pomegranate | | Same | TJC 2001.212, Group P | 87388 |
| Uncertain | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 20 | 8796 | 953 | 2.47 | 14 | ↑ | [...] Paleo-Hebrew inscription within wreath | Double cornucopia, between horns, a pomegranate | 2nd–1st BCE | Jerusalem | | 87402 |

CATALOGUE (Cont.)

| Cat. No. | Basket | Locus | Weight (g) | Diam. (mm) | Axis | Obverse | Reverse | Date (CE) | Mint | References and Notes | IAA No. |
|---|--------|-------|------------|------------|------|--------------------------------|---|--------------------------------------|-----------|--|---------|
| 21 | 8156 | 874 | 1.82 | 14 | ↑ | Same | Same | | Same | | 87380 |
| 22 | 8573 | 936 | 1.76 | 15 | ↗ | Same | Same | | Same | | 87394 |
| 23 | 8795 | 949 | 1.71 | 13 | ↑ | Same | Same | | Same | | 87400 |
| SELEUCIDS | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Demetrius III (96–87 BCE) | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 24* | 8865 | 1016 | 4.47 | 17 | ↑ | Head r., diademed | [ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΣ ΔΗΜΗΤΡΙΟΥ ΘΕΟΥ ΦΙΛΟΠΑΤΟΡΟΣ ΣΩΤΗΡΟΣ] Hermes sig., facing on podium, nude | | Damascus | <i>SVG Israel</i> 1:384, No. 2869 or 2873 | 87411 |
| HASMONAEANS | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Mattathias Antigonus (40–37 BCE) | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 25 | 8185 | 874 | 8.20 | 19 | ↓ | Cornucopia | [---] ΤΑ ΡΩ[---] ANTIΓ | Inscription within wreath: BACI[---] | Jerusalem | <i>TJC</i> 2001:219, No. 37 Sion and Ariel 2001: 115, n. 3 | 87381 |
| HERODIANS | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Herod I(?) — <i>Pritath</i> | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 26 | 8800 | 1008 | 1.03 | 13 | | Obliterated | [ΚΑ]Ι[---] OC Double cornucopia | 37–4 BCE | Jerusalem | Doublestruck | 87405 |
| ROMAN PROCURATORS IN JUDEA | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Augustus – Uncertain | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 27 | 8788 | 888 | 1.98 | 16 | ↓ | [ΚΑ]Ι[CA]POC Ear of corn | L – [---] Palm tree | 6–12 | Jerusalem | <i>TJC</i> 2001:256, Nos. 311–315 | 87385 |
| Tiberius – Valerius Gratus | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 28 | 8323 | 850 | 2.20 | 17 | ↓ | [ΤΙΒ]Ι[KA]CAP Within wreath | [ΟΥ – ΛΙΑ / ---] Palm branch | 17–18 | Jerusalem | <i>TJC</i> 2001:257, Nos. 327, 328 | 87374 |
| Pontius Pilatus | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 29 | 8528 | 921 | 1.70 | 16 | ↑ | TIBEPIOY KAICAPOC Litus | Date within wreath: LIZ (retrograde) | Year 17 = 30 | Jerusalem | <i>TJC</i> 2001:258, No. 333 | 87392 |

CATALOGUE (cont.)

| Cat. No. | Basket | Locus | Weight (g) | Diam. (mm) | Axis | Oblverse | Reverse | Date (CE) | Mint | References and Notes | IAA No. | |
|---|--------|-------|------------|------------|------|-----------------------------|--|-------------------------|-----------|--|------------------------------|-------|
| HERODIANS | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Agrrippa I — <i>Priyah</i> | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 30 | 8801 | 1008 | 2.57 | 16 | | Obliterated | L - [ζ] Three ears of corn stemming between two leaves | Year 6 = 41/42 | Jerusalem | <i>TJC</i> 2001:231, No. 120 | 87406 | |
| 31* | 8564 | 934 | 2.30 | 17 | ↑ | [BAC]ΙΑΕΩΣ ΑΠΙΠΑ Canopy | [L] - Σ Same | Same | Same | Same | 87393 | |
| ROMAN PROCURATORS IN JUDEA | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Nero – Festus | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 32* | 8802 | 1008 | 2.82 | 18 | ↑ | ΛΕ ΚΑΙ ΚΑΠΟC Palm branch | ΝΕΡΠΩΝΟΙC within wreath | Year 5 = 59 | Jerusalem | <i>TJC</i> 2001:260, No. 345 | 87407 | |
| 33 | 8870 | 1016 | 2.34 | 17 | ↑ | Same | Same | Same | Same | Same | 87412 | |
| JEWISH WAR | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Year Two — <i>Priyah</i> | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 34* | 8786 | 896 | 3.06 | 17 | ↓ | Amphora | מְתִשְׁנָה שְׂמַח | לֵבִי צְדָקָה | 67 | Jerusalem | <i>TJC</i> 2001:241, No. 196 | 87387 |
| 35 | 8444 | 904 | 2.54 | 18 | ↓ | Same | [מְתִשְׁנָה תְּמֻשָּׁה] | לֵבִי צְדָקָה | Same | Same | Same | 87390 |
| 36 | 8310 | 904 | 2.54 | 18 | ↓ | Same | [מְתִשְׁנָה תְּמֻשָּׁה] | לֵבִי צְדָקָה | Same | Same | Same | 87389 |
| ROMAN PROVINCIAL | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Titus — <i>Judea Capta</i> issue | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 37* | 8863 | 1016 | 12.23 | 22×25 | ↑ | [AYTOKP.TIT ΟΣ ΚΑΙΣΑΡ] | Trophy, flanked by Jewess captive seated at its feet and shield | 70–81 | Caesarea | <i>TJC</i> 2001:265–266, No. 384 | 87410 | |
| BAR KOKHBA REVOLT | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Year two — <i>Medium bronze</i> | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 38* | 8896 | 1016 | 10.64 | 23 | ↓ | Palm tree | עַזְבָּשׁ | לְבָנָה יְהוָה שְׁבָרֶן | 133/134 | <i>TJC</i> 2001:250, No. 260 Tonge 2002:46* | 87413 | |

CATALOGUE (cont.)

| Cat. No. | Basket No. | Locus | Weight (g) | Diam. (mm) | Axis | Obverse | Reverse | Date (CE) | Mint | References and Notes | IAA No. |
|--------------------------------------|---------------|-------|---------------|---------------|------|--|---|-----------|--------------------|---|------------|
| ROMAN PROVINCIAL | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Hadrian (117–138 CE) | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 39 | 8783 | 977 | 11.98 | 22 | ↑ | [IMP TRA HADRIANO CAES AVG] | [COL I FL AVG CAESARENS] Bust of Serapis r. | | Caesarea No. 28 | Kadman 1957:102, No. 28 | 87403 |
| ROMAN IMPERIAL | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Diocletian — Radiate fraction | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 40* | 8449 | 896 | 3.12 | 21 | ↓ | [IMP CC VAL DIOCLETIANVS PF AVG] | CONCORDIA MI-LITVM Emperor receiving Victory on globe from Jupiter. Below: CA In exergue: XXI | 293–295 | Antioch | <i>RIC</i> 5/2:256, No. 322 | 87386 |
| | | | | | | Bust r., radiate, cuirassed and draped | | | | | |
| Constantine I | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 41 | 8213 | 869 | 3.08 | 19 | ↓ | CONSTANT-TINVS AVG | PROVIDENTIAE AVGG Camp-gate with two towers; above, a star; mintmark illegible | 324–330 | | <i>Cf. LRB</i> C 1:30, No. 1333 | 87379 |
| | | | | | | Head r., laureate | | | | | |
| 364–375 CE | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 42 | 8096 | 847 | 0.81 | 14 | ↓ | Obliterated | GLORIA RO-MANORVM Emperor advancing l., dragging captive and holding labarum; mintmark illegible | | | <i>Cf. LRB</i> C 2:100, Nos. 2653–2655 | 87373 |
| | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 383–395 CE | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 43 | 8653 | 1014 | 0.44 | 10×12 | ↙ | [---] | [SALVS RE-PVBLICA]E Victory advancing l., dragging captive, holding standard; mintmark illegible | | | <i>Cf. LRB</i> C 2:102, Nos. 2768–2771 | 87409 |
| | | | | | | Bust r., pearl-diademed, cuirassed and draped | | | | | |
| MAMLUK | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Uncertain — Fals | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 44 | 8643 | Sur. | 1.16 | 17 | | ↓ | Obliterated | 13th c. | | | 87415 |

NOTES

¹ The coins were cleaned in the IAA laboratories under the direction of Lena Kuperschmidt and photographed by Clara Amit.

² A prolonged use during the Second Temple period is most common for Group L coins of Alexander Jannaeus (*TJC* 2001:210), minted from 80/79 BCE onward. This phenomenon has been noted in several excavations in Jerusalem, such as Khirbat

Tabaliya (Bijovsky 2000:97*) and Binyane Ha-Umma (Bijovsky 2005:211), and at the synagogue in Modi'in (Kh. Umm el-'Umdan; Permit No. A-3394; identified by the author).

³ The coins from this excavation (IAA 88594 and 94573–94615; Permit No. A-3233), identified by the author, will be published separately. Their dates are rather close to those of the coins published here.

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